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MAR 29 1994

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March 29, 1994

Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: PR Docket No. 93-61, RM-8013
Automatic Vehicle Monitoring Service

Dear Mr. Chairman

On behalf of the Interagency Group, which represents transportation toll authorities in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, I submit the attached press release of March 18, 1994 announcing the choice of Mark IV IVHS, Incorporated, to supply necessary tag and reader equipment for deployment of an unprecedented interoperable regional electronic toll collection system known as "E-ZPassSM."

The E-ZPass Plan and its implementation have been described by the Interagency Group in a series of filings in the above-referenced pending rulemaking proceeding. In these submissions, the Group has also expressed its concern that proposed changes in the allocation and licensing of services in the 902-928 MHz band, as set forth in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, rest on dubious justifications and could adversely impact the deployment of the E-ZPass system and other electronic toll and traffic management systems that fulfill the mandate of the Intelligent Vehicle-Highway Systems Act of 1991.

It is the hope of the Interagency Group that you will recognize the significance of this action in furthering the implementation of the E-ZPass Plan, and will quickly and favorably respond to the Group's previous filings that urge the Commission to provide (1) co-primary status, (2) extended implementation, or "build-out," schedules, and

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Honorable Reed Hundt
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(3) blanket license authorizations for regional electronic toll and traffic management systems and other public service AVM systems.

Sincerely,

Allan R. Adler
Counsel to the Interagency Group:

New Jersey Highway Authority
New Jersey Turnpike Authority
New York State Thruway Authority
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
Port Authority of N.Y. and N.J.
South Jersey Transportation Authority
Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority

Enclosure

cc: Honorable James Quello
Honorable Andrew Barrett
Ralph A. Haller, Chief, Private Radio Branch
Acting Secretary William Caton

NEWS RELEASE



INTERAGENCY GROUP

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 1994

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A seven-agency group representing toll authorities in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania today announced the selection of a manufacturer to furnish a compatible electronic toll collection system which will be recommended to each agency's governing board. The system is designed to increase customer convenience and reduce toll plaza congestion.

Mark IV IVHS Inc. of Amherst, N.Y., was selected to provide the tag and reader equipment for the system, named E-ZPass by the Interagency Group, that will be used on toll roads, bridges and tunnels in the three states. Collectively, facilities operated by the seven agencies serve more than four million customers daily.

The selection was made following more than two years of cooperation among the seven agencies -- the New Jersey Highway Authority (operator of the Garden State Parkway), New Jersey Turnpike Authority, New York State Thruway Authority, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, Port
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THE PORT AUTHORITY
OF NY & NJ

Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Authority of New York and New Jersey, South Jersey Transportation Authority (operator of the Atlantic City Expressway) and the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority. As a result of this unprecedented alliance, there will be a one-tag system that will maximize customer convenience in the three states.

Implementation plans call for the installation of E-ZPass technology by each of the individual agencies using a phased approach. Beginning in early 1995, full implementation is expected to be complete by 1998.

E-ZPass will eliminate the need for motorists to exchange cash, tokens or tickets at a toll booth. Instead, tolls will be paid electronically as a vehicle passes through the toll lane. When fully implemented, E-ZPass will be available at all participating toll facilities in the tri-state region.

Today's selection culminates extensive testing of read/write technology tag and reader equipment from both Mark IV IVHS Inc. and Amtech Systems Corporation of Dallas, Texas. The read/write technology is considered state-of-the-art for the transportation industry. In addition to the Interagency Group-sponsored tests, several regional toll authorities have conducted individual tests of various types of electronic toll collection (ETC) equipment and have shared the results.

Vehicles using E-ZPass will be equipped with a small electronic device, known as a tag, that communicates vehicle information to equipment in the toll lanes that collect and transmit data to and from the tags. The data are then processed

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and the appropriate toll charged to, or credited against, the customer's account. Each individual agency will establish E-ZPass customer account procedures for customers using its toll facilities. Special attention will be given to ensure that account procedures and policies are as consistent as possible among the agencies for the benefit of their shared customers.

Each agency will be implementing E-ZPass at its facilities in accordance with local operating conditions with the overall objective of maximizing safety and convenience. Some agencies may offer E-ZPass with a brief stop in the toll lane, while others may offer it with "roll through" at a slow speed. For customers who do not choose to use E-ZPass, the existing means of paying tolls will continue to be available at each agency.

The New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA) has dedicated, non-stop "E-ZPass Only" lanes at its recently introduced interim E-ZPass installations at the Tappan Zee Bridge, Spring Valley and Yonkers toll plazas in the New York City area and at the Grand Island Bridges, located north of Buffalo. The NYSTA will convert these sites to the Mark IV technology.

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